

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

As previously indicated by the applicant, claim 8 was withdrawn without traverse. Therefore, claim 8 is now cancelled.

The rest of the claims 1, 3, 4, 6, and 7 are now set in a condition of allowance.

EXAMINER'S STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

This communication is an Examiner's reasons for allowance in response to application filed on 04/21/2004, assigned serial 10/828,272 and titled "Information Providing Method for Vehicle and Information Providing Apparatus for Vehicle"

The following is the Examiner's statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

The applicant's amendment and arguments filed on 05/14/2008 have been fully considered. After carefully reconsidering the application and the applied prior art, the examiner has realized the application is patentably distinct from the prior art. The cited prior art are not deemed strong to make the application unpatentable.

The prior art closest to the subject matter of claims 1, 4, and 7 is the reference of Ohtsuji et al. and Morimoto et al. Ohtsuji et al. directs to an audio interactive navigation system for motor vehicle using the management unit and audio interactive server.

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Ohtsuji et al. teaches an interactive voice response device that allows a user to customize audio guidance used in a subsequent dialogue, however, Ohtsuji et al. fails to disclose a customizing device configured to allow each of a plurality of users to customize audio guidance specific to each of the plurality of users and store the customized audio guidance in the user information storage device in correspondence to each of the plurality of users, an interactive voice response device having a speech recognition function and providing audio guidance, configured to identify a user among the plurality of users, obtain the customized audio guidance specific to the identified user from the user information storage device and engage in a dialogue with the user through an automatic voice response via a telephone line using the customized audio guidance obtained from the user information storage. Morimoto et al. teaches a vehicle navigation system with a storage device for storing audio/guidance data, however, Morimoto et al. fails to disclose a customizing device configured to allow each of a plurality of users to customize audio guidance specific to each of the plurality of users and store the customized audio guidance in the user information storage device in correspondence to each of the plurality of users, and an interactive voice response device having a speech recognition function and providing audio guidance configured to identify a user among the plurality of users, obtain the customized audio guidance specific to the identified user from the user information storage device and engage in a dialogue with the user through an automatic voice response via a telephone line using the customized audio guidance obtained from the user information storage. Neither Ohtsuji et al. nor Morimoto et al discloses the interactive voice response device records

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information provided to the user in the past, customizes the audio guidance by using a set of information most frequently provided to the user among different sets of information previously provided to the user, stores the customized audio guidance in the user information storage device in correspondence to the user, and engages in a dialogue with the user through an automatic voice response via a telephone line using the customized audio guidance stored in the user information storage device in correspondence to the user.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tuan C To whose telephone number is (571) 272-6985. The examiner can normally be reached on from 8:00AM to 5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jack Keith can be reached on 571-272-6878.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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/Tuan C To/

Primary Examiner of Art Unit 3663/3600

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